



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
25.		Favor	Alejandra Aguilar Avelino	
			Barbara KAPPOS	VOCA Cuts will drastically cut services for thousands of survivors impacted by domestic and sexual violence. The impact directly impacts The safety and stability of families in LA County.
			Hector Ramirez	In California scores of rape crisis hotlines, child abuse centers & legal service providers across California are bracing for an unprecedented 44.7% cut this summer-almost \$70 million this year alone! Please support H.R. 8061, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, and similar measures, which are consistent with ongoing Federal and State advocacy efforts to sustain funding for Victims of Crime Act grantees and services. (
			Hovanes Tonoyan	I am a UC Berkeley graduate currently protecting the magic for one of the world's top employers. I myself have been a survivor of violent crime in Los Angeles County, and have experienced the most difficulties in getting the healing I need from my city, my county, and the state. I was the only one from Burbank, Los Angeles County, and California, to make a public comment to the federal government for their VOCA regulations update, as well as 1 of the only 2 Burbank advocates who attended the National Crime Victim's Rights Week candlelight vigil on the National Mall in Washington D.C. on April 24th. I made comments to the California Victim Compensation Board on May 16th, where I was the only member of the public to make my voice heard. Please stop letting victims and survivors suffer in silence. Do more. They lose housing, health, employment, credit scores, and so much more. There needs to be more verifications and power exercised by the County victim centers in favor of victims, not against them. City's need to be held accountable. CalVCB needs to be advocated to and we all need to stand up to them and speak up about all the injustice being committed. Even someone like me who is prestigiously educated, makes six figures a year, and is young and active in my community at elite levels, is still treated as poorly as any other victim who might be from even more disadvantaged circumstances. Please do better.

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
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25.		Favor	LATOSHA M REYNA	The YWCA Greater Los Angeles provides life-saving services to survivors of sexual assault and with these impending major cuts our ability to serve clients when they need us most will be limited or non-existent. The inability to provide services will increase the homelessness population for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence and could be detrimental to survivors of sexual assault. We provide crisis intervention to callers who are desperately needing someone to be there on the other end of the phone to believe them and support them as they adjust to their new normal. I believe without adequate funding to support our programs lives will be lost if calls go unanswered.
			Stephanie A Molen	Thank you, Supervisor Horvath, for protecting Victims of Crime and the agencies that work to provide critical services.
		Item Total	6	
Grand Total			6	

May 20, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles, California
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Item 25: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding - County Support for H.R. 8061

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

As a service agency serving victims of interpersonal violence in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys, StrengthUnited (SU) utilizes the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and human trafficking. Last year, StrengthUnited served thousands of individuals affected by interpersonal violence, and almost all of them received a grant through VOCA. Losing VOCA funding would be detrimental to our constituents, and we are encouraged by efforts to support a VOCA funding fix and to identify ways to support victims of crime so that they continue to receive the life-saving services they deserve.

VOCA, through deposits into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) from fines and penalties in federal cases, is the largest federal funding source for victim service providers. VOCA funds essential services for crime victims, such as rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, child abuse programs, court-appointed special advocates, legal assistance, human trafficking services, and more. VOCA is at the center of California's response to supporting victims of crime. It supports nearly 400 organizations that provide counseling, housing services, crisis response, and direct legal services, along with a range of other responses to address trauma and support their healing. In FY 21-22, these services included:

- Housing for domestic violence survivors and their children, including 354,227 emergency shelter nights; providing transitional housing 180,628 times; and supporting 6,882 individuals with housing services through a Housing First approach.
- Services for 46,461 individuals experiencing sexual violence, served by California's Rape Crisis Centers.
- Culturally appropriate victim services for 42,184 unserved/underserved survivors of crime and another 4,333 child and youth survivors of crime from unserved/underserved communities.

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Cuts to service providers across California have already begun and will continue until action is taken. Should the state and Federal government not step in to support these services, thousands of survivors will face increased wait times and fewer available services, many service providers will be forced to lay off staff and some will be forced to close their doors entirely. The reductions put survivors' safety and well-being at risk rather than the consistent, reliable access to healing services they deserve.

The impact of the anticipated 44.7% cut in VOCA funds on StrengthUnited will result in a loss of **\$708,306** (10% of StrengthUnited's total budget) and **1,035 survivors of interpersonal violence not receiving services**. This directly impacts eight of StrengthUnited's programs. The ripple effect will negatively impact and possibly terminate two additional programs known to date.

Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, and other crimes deserve consistent, reliable access to healing services. We thank the Board for your consideration of this item, and for your advocacy on this issue. If you have any questions regarding the impact to our programs and services, please feel free to contact me
at

merilla.scott@strengthunited.org

Merilla McCurry Scott

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Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

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